

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising:
an elongated nonmagnetic support; and
a single-layered magnetic layer having an orthorhombic structure formed on a main surface of said nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film deposition technique,
wherein,
said single-layered magnetic layer has a thickness from 40nm to 100nm,
an H_{cmax}/H_{c0} ratio of said magnetic layer is not greater than 1.2, where H_{cmax} is a maximum value of a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in a plane perpendicular to said magnetic layer and containing a longitudinal direction of said magnetic recording medium, and H_{c0} is a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in the longitudinal direction of the magnetic recording medium, and
said magnetic recording medium is specially adapted for recording and reproduction using a magnetoresistive magnetic transducing head or a giant magnetoresistive magnetic transducing head.
2. (Original) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said coercive force H_{c0} is not less than 100 kA/m.
3. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein $Mr\delta_s$ which is a product of a remanent magnetization Mr and a film thickness δ of said single-layered magnetic layer, is within a range expressed by Expression (1), and a signal recorded in said single-layered magnetic layer is reproduced by slide-contact movement of a magnetoresistive magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording medium:
$$12 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr\delta < 30 \text{ (mA)}. \quad \cdots (1)$$
4. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein $Mr\delta_s$ which is a product of a remanent magnetization Mr and a film thickness δ of said single-layered magnetic layer, is within a range expressed by Expression (2), and a signal recorded in

said single-layered magnetic layer is reproduced by slide-contact movement of a giant magnetoresistive magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording medium:

$$3 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr \cdot \delta < 12 \text{ (mA)}. \quad \cdots (2)$$

5. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ comprising a longitudinal direction and a plurality of tracks ~~are~~ arranged in parallel with one another in the longitudinal direction, ~~and so that~~ recording and reproduction of signals ~~is~~ can be performed by a linear system.

6. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a protective layer formed on said single-layered magnetic layer.

7. (Original) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said protective layer includes a diamond-like carbon (DLC).